

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sheet processing apparatus comprising:

a compiling tray for forming a sheet bundle by sequentially collecting sheets supplied thereto;

a sheet alignment portion for aligning sheets supplied to said compiling tray;

a pressing member, provided in such a way as to be able to advance and retract in a direction of thickness of the sheets collected in said compiling tray, for holding sheets already collected in said compiling tray and aligned in said sheet alignment portion when a new sheet is supplied to said compiling tray; and

a controller that controls said pressing member according to a thickness of sheets collected on said compiling tray,

wherein said pressing member is provided in such a way as to advance and retract between an advancing position, at which said pressing member presses sheets on said compiling tray, and a retreating position at which said pressing member does not hinder the sheets on said compiling tray from being discharged therefrom, and

advancing and retracting operations of said pressing member vary according to whether or not folding is performed on sheets newly supplied to said compiling tray;

said pressing member is provided at a downstream side of a supplying direction of said sheets above said compiling tray, and

a guide member, provided in such a way as to be able to be interlocked with said pressing member, for guiding the sheets newly supplied to said compiling tray when said pressing member is moved to the advancing position.

Claims 2 - 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the advancing and retracting operations of said pressing member vary according to what supply portions supply new sheets to said compiling tray.

Claim 5 (Original): The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said pressing member presses sheets already collected on said compiling tray before a leading end of a sheet newly supplied to said compiling tray touches the sheets already collected thereon, and wherein said pressing member goes away from the collected sheets before a rear end of the newly supplied sheet is discharged onto said compiling tray.

Claims 6 – 11(Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A sheet processing apparatus comprising:

a compiling tray for receiving and stacking ~~supplied~~ sheets from a leading end side in a sheet-discharging direction, the sheets being conveyed through and discharged from a conveyance guide;

a longitudinal reference wall for performing alignment of sheets stacked on said compiling tray by aligning rear ends of said sheets, the longitudinal reference wall being provided in a direction opposite to the sheet-discharging direction;

a first moving-aside unit for moving said sheets aside toward said longitudinal reference wall at a rear end side of said sheets supplied to said compiling tray; and

a second moving-aside unit for moving said sheets aside toward said longitudinal reference wall at a leading end side of each of said sheets, wherein said second moving-aside unit is provided closer to said leading end side than said first moving-aside unit;

a part contacting said sheets of said second moving-aside unit moves between an upper position and a lower position;

a conveyance force of said second moving-aside unit is used for moving said sheets aside toward said longitudinal reference wall, and set therein in such a way as to be variable; and

~~said second moving-aside unit is set in a manner that varies according to whether or not folding is performed on sheets stacked on said compiling tray;~~

said second moving-aside unit changes a first state into a second state having a weaker conveyance force than that of the first state so as to change the upper position and the lower

position, when an amount of the sheets discharged from the leading end side of the sheets and stacked on the compiling tray exceeds a predetermined amount; and

said second moving-aside unit changes the first state into the second state in an amount less than the predetermined amount when the sheets on which a folding is performed are discharged from the leading end side of the sheets and stacked on the compiling tray.

Claim 13 (Original): The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said second moving-aside unit is enabled to move in a direction of thickness of a sheet bundle accommodated in said compiling tray.

Claim 14 (Original): The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said second moving-aside unit changes a position thereof in a direction of thickness of a sheet bundle according to the sheet bundle stacked on said compiling tray.

Claim 15 – 23 (Cancelled).